

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

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R 060905Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7468

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, EAIR, BBAK, BC, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SON'S INTEREST IN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT

1. AT A RECENT SOCIAL EVENT IAN KHAMA, ELDEST SON OF PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA, DISCUSSED HIS INTEREST IN THE BEECH SUPER KING AIR WITH CHARGE'. IAN KHAMA IS SANDHURST TRAINED AND CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS TRAINING OFFICER FOR BOTSWANA POLICE MOBILE UNIT (NEAREST THING TO A MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN BOTSWANA). AND HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM EUROPE WHERE HE QUALIFIED IN MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT.

2. KHAMA SAID MEMBERS OF HIS FATHER'S STAFF ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT TO BUY AN EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT OF SOME KIND SO THAT HE NEED NOT BORROW OR LEASE AIRCRAFT OR FLY COMMERCIAL WHEN TRAVELLING ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS. IAN KHAMA SAYS HE HAS NEVER FLOWN THE SUPER KING AIR BUT BASED ON ITS SPECIFICATIONS HE CONSIDERS IT TO BE AN IDEAL AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE AND AS A UTILITY AIRCRAFT FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF DISSATISFACTION FOR SOME TIME OVER PRESIDENT'S DEPENDENCE ON OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR CHARTER

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COMPANIES FOR AIRCRAFT. IAN KHAMA'S COMMENT SUGGESTS THAT

SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY
NEED FOR EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT. HIS INTEREST IN SUPER KING AIR
PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR SALE OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IN THIS
SITUATION. SINCE HE IS MILTI-ENGINE QULAIFIED, HE WOULD PROBABLY
GREATLY APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT.
THOMSEN

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